

obliged to put an artificial bump or swelling here, a latch there, etc., but this would be merely hypocritical; or if the alternative was given of wearing a mask, ninety-nine one-hundredths must immediately mask. Would this add to the beauty of nature? Why otherwise in opinions? In *the* middle ages of Christianity opposition to the State opinions was hushed. The consequence was Christianity became loaded with all the Romish follies. Nothing but free argument, raillery, and even ridicule will preserve the purity of religion. (From Notes on Religion, 1776, F. II., 95-)

RELIGION.—All persons shall have full and free liberty of religious opinion; nor shall any be compelled to frequent or maintain any religious institution. (From proposed Constitution for Virginia, 1776. F. II., 27.)

RELIGION.—The advantages accruing to mankind from our Savior's mission are these: First, the knowledge of one God only; second, a clear knowledge of their duty, or system of morality, delivered on such authority as to give sanction; third, the outward forms of religion wanted to be purged of that farcical pomp and nonsense with which they were loaded; fourth, an inducement to a pious life,, by revealing clearly a future existence and that it was to be the reward of the virtuous. (From Notes on Religion, 1776. F. II., 94.)

RELIGION.—The opinions and belief of men depend not on their own will, but follow involuntarily the evidence proposed to their minds. Almighty God hath created the mind free and manifested his supreme will that free it shall remain by making" it altogether insusceptible of restraint; all attempts to influence it by temporal punishments, or burthens, or by civil incapacitations, tend only to beget habits of hypocrisy and meanness, and are a departure from the plan of the holy author of our religion. (From a Bill for establishing religious freedom, 1779. F. II., 238.)

RELIGION.—To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagations of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors, is sinful and tyrannical; the forcing him to support this or that teacher of his own religious persuasion, is depriving-